

STATE OF NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will hold a rule making hearing pursuant to Neb. Rev. State § 84-907 on the 17th day of August, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., to be held at the offices of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District, 410 Walnut Street, Butte, Nebraska. There will be a public information meeting prior to the hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m., August 16, 2005 at the same location. Copies of the proposed rules and maps will be available for inspection at the public information meeting.

The purpose of the hearing is to take testimony and evidence about new rules and regulations related to the boundary of the Niobrara River Game Refuge to be included in Title 459 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as Chapter 3. The subject matter and scope of the rule making action is:

To implement the provisions of LB 826, Sections 3 and 4, (2004), codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-706 and 37-707, which requires the Department of Natural Resources to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations determining the boundaries of the state game refuges based on the definitions found in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-701 to 37-708 and include maps showing such boundaries.

Draft or working copies of the proposed rules and maps are available at the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District, 410 Walnut Street, Butte, Nebraska; at the Nebraska Department of Natural Resource Main Office, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska; and at the offices of the Secretary of State, Regulations Division, Room 343, State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska. There is no expected fiscal impact from the adoption of these regulations on state agencies or political subdivisions, but there may be fiscal impact on landowners affected by the designation of the refuge in that the regulations will limit hunting opportunities within the designated areas.

All interested persons may attend and testify orally or by written submission at the hearing. Interested persons may also submit written comments prior to the hearing which will be made part of the hearing record at the time of hearing if received by the Department of Natural Resources on or before August 12, 2005. Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation by contacting the Administrative Officer at P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676, (402) 471-2363, **by August 8, 2005.**